

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20508

USTR Press Releases are available on the USTR home page at WWW.USTR.GOV.
They are also available through the USTR Fax Retrieval System at 202-395-4809.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 31, 1997

97-72
Contact: Jay Ziegler
Kirsten Powers
Christine Wilkas
(202) 395-3230

**U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY
AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DAN GLICKMAN MEET
WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON CANADIAN GRAINS**

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman engaged in a constructive discussion with key congressional leaders about the US-Canada wheat trade issues. The meeting provided Administration officials an opportunity to brief members of the Congress about the Administration's initiatives on behalf of the concerns of U.S. farmers, discuss the status of the voluntary MOU -- in which Canada agreed to limit exports of wheat to the United States -- that expired on September 11, 1995, and reiterate the Administration's commitment to fair trade practices.

In April, Ambassador Barshefsky went to Minot, North Dakota to hear directly from North Dakota's farmers their concerns about inequities in the grains trade between the US and Canada. Since that meeting USTR and USDA have conducted several consultations with Canadian counterparts toward reaching fair and equal terms of trade. During today's meeting, Ambassador Barshefsky and Secretary Glickman highlighted the Administration's ongoing efforts to make progress on a range of market access issues.

Ambassador Barshefsky and Secretary Glickman also described to the congressional leaders the critical importance of export markets for U.S. wheat producers, noting that nearly one half of the wheat produced in this country--including durum--is destined for export markets. For example, North Dakota exported \$1.2 billion of wheat last year, 68% of the state's total agricultural exports. The future for farm income growth rests in exports, and our efforts at USTR and USDA have been to break down trade barriers and to increase market opportunities around the world.

Ambassador Barshefsky and Secretary Glickman made the following joint comment:

"The Clinton Administration is second to none when it comes to ensuring that other countries open their markets on reciprocal terms. We continue to press the Canadian Government to ensure that our wheat producers gain full access to their market on equal terms and to address levels of wheat imports from Canada. As we move forward, we understand how important exports are to the wheat industry and continue to press for more open markets around the world."